

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5289

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15219

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, WB, GW

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: MOVE TO TEGEL

REF: BONN 14679

1. FONOFF BCATAG REP JIRKA CALLED EMB CAA TO HIS OFFICE ON SHORT NOTICE SEPTEMBER 25 TO REITERATE SERIOUS GERMAN CONCERN AT US INABILITY TO MOVE AHEAD ON CAA APPROVAL OF TEGEL SOUTH RENTS AND FEES. JIRKA SHOWED CAA COPY OF A DRAFT CONTRACT IN GERMAN WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD HAD ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED TO PAA AND BA. HE DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE PARAGRAPHS PROVIDING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF HIGHER LANDING AND PARKING FEES ON APRIL 1, 1975 AND THE PAYMENT OF NEW RENT LEVELS AS AIRLINE OCCUPANCY OF TEGEL SOUTH FACILITIES OCCURRED.

2. JIRKA SAID THAT WITH COMPLETION OF DRAFT CONTRACT HE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE PROMPT US AGREEMENT TO MOVE AHEAD. HE REPEATED EARLIER EXPRESSED CONCERN RE SHORT
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TIME REMAINING BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 TEGEL SOUTH OPENING.

HE ADDED THAT WHILE HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT MANY TECHNICAL QUESTIONS MAY REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE BERLIN AIRPORT COMPANY (BFG) AND THE AIRLINES, MAJOR PROVISIONS COVERING MOVE HAD ALREADY BEEN WORKED OUT AND GERMAN REQUEST FOR ALLIED GOVERNMENT ACTION ON FEES AND RENTALS WAS FULLY JUSTIFIED. IF TEGEL SOUTH PROGRAM WAS TO MOVE AHEAD ON SCHEDULE, SOME DEGREE OF GOODWILL WOULD HAVE TO BE SHOWN BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. HE ADDED THAT BERLIN SENAT WAS SO DISTRESSED AT THE PRESENT SITUATION THAT IT HAD CONTEMPLATED A PRESS CONFERENCE TO MAKE PUBLIC PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS RE TEGEL MOVE. FONOFF FELT THIS COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE ILL ADVISED AND HAD DISSUADED THE SENAT -- AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

3. EMB CAA REITERATED PREVIOUSLY STATED US POSITION POINTING OUT THAT WE FULLY APPRECIATED GERMAN CONCERNS RE MOVING AHEAD ON TEGEL SOUTH. WE, NONETHELESS, CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT AIRLINE UNANIMITY AND UNEQUIVOCAL AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS OF THE MOVE WERE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT TEGEL SOUTH'S ENTRY INTO OPERATION PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY. EMB CAA AGREED THAT SENAT'S PRESS CONFERENCE IDEA WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AT THIS JUNCTURE. EMB CAA ASSURED JIRKA THAT USG WAS FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS PRESENT SITUATION WAS RESOLVED -- WHICH WE HOPED WOULD BE SOON. JIRKA CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT MATTER WOULD PROBABLY BE REFERRED TO THE STATE SECRETARY LEVEL AT FONOFF IF POSITIVE US RESPONSE WAS NOT POSSIBLE BY EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: JIRKA'S APPROACHING MATTER IN BILATERAL CONTEXT WAS, OF COURSE, A LOGICAL NEXT STEP FOR THE GERMANS. WE WOULD EXPECT THEM TO ESCALATE THE MATTER FURTHER AS MIDDLE OF OCTOBER DRAWS NEARER.
HILLENBRAND

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